

Special and Regular Meeting of Tuesday, November 27, 2007

City Council Chambers, One Twin Pines Lane

SPECIAL MEETINGS

CLOSED SESSION – 7:05 P.M.

- A. Conference with Labor Negotiator, Jack Crist, pursuant to Government Code Section No. 54957.6: MMCEA and AFSCME

Attended by Councilmembers Warden, Feierbach, Mathewson, Lieberman, City Manager Crist, City Attorney Zafferano, Community Development Director de Melo, and Police Chief Mattei. Councilmember Dickenson was absent and City Clerk Cook was excused from attending.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 7:10 P.M.

Terri Cook

City Clerk

This meeting not tape recorded or videotaped.

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER 7:40 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Lieberman, Feierbach, Warden, Mathewson, Dickenson

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: None

Staff Present: City Manager Crist, City Attorney Zafferano, Community Development Director de Melo, Police Chief Mattei, Finance Director Fil, Public Works Director Davis, Co-Interim Parks and Recreation Directors Ourtiague and Brunson, Fire Chief Fry, City Treasurer Violet, City Clerk Cook.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by City Clerk Cook.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Zafferano stated that there was no action to report regarding the closed session with the AFSCME labor group, but that on a vote of 4-0 (Dickenson absent), the City Council unanimously accepted the ratification of the contract with the MMCEA labor group. A resolution will be forthcoming to formally approve the contract.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of Award to the City of Belmont from the California Clean Air Project (CCAP)

Narinder Dhaliwal, California Clean Air Project, stated that the Clean Air Award is presented to cities who have enacted laws to protect their residents from second-hand smoke in outdoor areas. She noted that the City of Belmont has taken the additional step of protecting residents living in multi-unit housing from second-hand smoke.

Mayor Feierbach thanked the California Clean Air Project for its recognition of Belmont's efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rich Bortoli, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, stated that at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on December 5th, an update of the City's Parks and Open Space Master Plan will be discussed, and public input is encouraged. He noted this document was last updated 15 years ago.

Shulamit Hoffman, Viva! la Musica Director, invited the public to attend a choral music program at St. Mark's Church the first weekend in December. She also noted that Viva! la Musica would be performing carols for the Twin Pines Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 5th.

Ruth Waters, 1870 Gallery, invited the public to Open Studios at the gallery on Ralston Avenue during the first weekend of December.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Feierbach commended Central Elementary School for being named a Blue Ribbon School. She noted this is a national recognition, and something that the City should be proud of. She announced the inaugural Twin Pines Tree Lighting ceremony on December 5th. The new Council members will be seated at the next regular Council meeting on December 11th. Outgoing Council members Mathewson and Warden will be recognized at that time. She noted that City Hall Administrative Offices will be closed for the holidays from December 24th through January 1st of 2008.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Resolution 9949 Approving the Purchase of Two Crown Victoria Police Cars from Serramonte Ford for an Amount not to Exceed \$48,711.72 and One E250 SWAT Van from Hansel Ford for an Amount not to Exceed \$21,039.89

Approval of Resolution 9950 Authorizing the Reclassification of the Corporal's Position and Proposed New Salary Range

Approval of Resolution 9951 Approving a Salary Increase for City Clerk

Approval of Resolution 9952 Approving an Amendment to the Compensation and Benefits Program for Unrepresented Management Employees

Approval of Resolution 9953 Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Duke's Root Control, Inc. for Root Foaming of Sewer Lines for an Amount not to Exceed \$60,000

Approval of Resolution 9954 Approving the Filing of the Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) Grant Application in the Amount of \$1,000,000 for the U.S. Highway 101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Project, City Contract Number 433

Approval of Resolution 9955 Accepting Work, Approving As-Built Plans, and Authorization to Issue Notice of Completion for the City Hall/Police Facility Air Conditioner Unit Replacements Project to Best Contracting Services, City Contract Number 482

Approval of Resolution 9956 Approving Contract Change Order Number One for Emergency Sewer Work in an Amount not to Exceed \$40,000 to JMB Construction, Inc. and Requesting to be Exempt from the City's Noise Ordinance for Night Work on El Camino Real at Middle Road, Haskins Pump Station Rehabilitation Project, City Contract Number 467

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Mathewson, seconded by Councilmember Warden, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by a show of hands (4-0, Dickenson absent).

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AND COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSIGNMENT UPDATES, AND STAFF ITEMS

Resolution Implementing an Athletic Field Use Player Registration Fee

Co-Interim Parks and Recreation Director Brunson noted there is a high demand for playing time on the various fields in Belmont. Staff recommends that a per-player fee be initiated, which would be placed in a restricted fund to be used for field maintenance. He clarified that these funds would supplement, not supplant the current funding. He noted that representatives from the various sports groups worked together with staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding this recommendation.

Co-Interim Parks and Recreation Director Brunson stated that there is a need to address the declining condition of the fields, and the current budget is insufficient to meet the growing needs. He reviewed the recent history of deferred maintenance and capital improvements, and the costs for each. He provided information regarding the joint powers agreement with the Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School district regarding the City's contribution towards maintenance of school fields. He outlined player fees that are assessed in other cities. He reviewed the various fields and noted each of their condition. He stated that synthetic turf provides conservation in the use of pesticides and water.

Co-Interim Parks and Recreation Director Brunson indicated that the field committee recommended a \$10 per-player/\$20 per team fee, but noted that the sports groups recommended doubling that

amount, which recommendation was unanimously approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission. He outlined the potential use of new revenues.

Jonathan Gervais, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair, stated that the maintenance needs on the fields are apparent, and a source of revenue is needed. Although there is a need for a long-term resolution to the situation, this per-player fee addresses the short-term need. Important factors are safety, field condition, sustainability, a good experience for youth, including sanitation. He stated that the sports groups support this concept, and noted that the coaches are already providing a great deal of maintenance.

Robert Mayer, Belmont resident, expressed concern that the use fee does little to address City-wide recreational needs. He expressed concern that the City Council would reduce the Parks and Recreation budget in the future. He noted that McDougal Park has certain times during the day when there is exclusive, private use, and the private school is paying nothing to maintain the park, has provided no signage or facilities for the public. There is a need for a more comprehensive plan.

Rich Bortoli, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, noted that the recommendation is that this fee is to supplement, not supplant, the current budget. If there are future budget cuts, they will likely be made across the board, not just one department. He stated that staff and the Commission would work with the sports leagues to prioritize projects in order to see results.

Councilmember Lieberman stated that he could support borrowing against future revenues in order to begin work immediately. Co-Interim Parks and Recreation Director Ourtiague responded that some of the revenues would be spent on seasonal work, some on ongoing maintenance, and some immediate monies could be expended for things like pest control. Some work can be done by staff, but some of the larger projects would likely be outsourced.

City Attorney Zafferano clarified that it is legally permissible to charge a different rate for Belmont residents than non-Belmont residents. He noted that this is common in other cities.

Councilmember Warden stated that he was surprised by the support from the sports groups, and he would therefore support this proposal.

ACTION: Councilmember Warden made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mathewson, to approve a resolution Implementing an Athletic Field Use Player Registration Fee, as proposed.

ACTION: Councilmember Lieberman requested consideration of a friendly amendment to include verbiage that the funds would not be used to supplant the budget. He also requested that the list of expenditures of the funds would be shared with the sports groups. Councilmember Warden accepted these amendments.

ACTION: On the original motion, amended as noted, Resolution 9957 Implementing an Athletic Field Use Player Registration Fee was unanimously approved by a show of hands (4-0, Dickenson absent).

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 8:30 P.M., to Closed Session.

CONTINUED CLOSED SESSION

- A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation, City Manager, pursuant to Government Code section 54957

Attended by Councilmembers Warden, Feierbach, Mathewson, Lieberman, City Manager Crist. City Clerk Cook was excused from attending.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 10:00 P.M.

Terri Cook

City Clerk

Council Meeting Tape Recorded and Videotaped
Audio Recording 679 (Closed Session not tape recorded or videotaped.)